

Andrew Jackson to Andrew Jackson, Jr., December 22, 1833, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO ANDREW JACKSON, JR.

Washington, December 22, 1833.

Dear Andrew, A few days ago I forwarded to you Mr. Hibbs letter agreeable to his request. At the time I was so pressed with business, and afflicted with pain, that I did no more than inclose it to you as he had requested. From the tenor of his to me, he complained that you had left a part of the consideration agreed to be given for the sister of grace and her child unpaid, which you had promised to remit, but had failed, without mentioning the amount. I saw this with much regret, because in the first place I had understood from you, that you had a ballance of the price of Polly Baker, of at least, eight hundred dollars, with what I had furnished you for expences, was sufficient to pay for the wench and child, and to cover all expences home. Secondly that if this was not the case, you would have advised me of the disposition of your money, and drew upon me for the amount that you left unpaid to Mr. Hibb. This, altho heavy drafts of late have been made upon me, I should have paid with pleasure, rather than you should have injured your credit, or that Mr. Hibb should have had cause to complain of your want of punctuality. remit the amount to him forthwith, or let me know the ballance due him, and I will remit it to him. but surely, you must have had a sufficient sum of the price of your mare to have paid Mr. Hibb. if you had not, you ought to have let me know it. You have now to encounter the risk of the mail, and his imputations of a failure to comply with your promise.

Why will you not my d'r Andrew, attend to my admonition about your money matters—never incur debts when you have the money to discharge your contracts, and in this

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instance there was no necessity to have left any unpaid. You had my advice to buy the girl, and if you had not the means in cash, which I thought you had, you ought to have drew on me, notifying me thereof. Write me on the receipt of this—let me know the amount you owe Mr. Hibb, and whether you have remitted it to him, or not, and I will cause it to be paid. hereafter my son, recollect my admonitions—buy nothing on credit when you have the cash to pay for it, buy nothing on credit that is not absolutely necessary for your comfort, or that of your family.

I have not been well of late, have been much afflicted with pain in my right shoulder and side, as well as the old complaint in my left, but am somewhat better to day. Let me hear how you and Mr. Holtzclaw has settled the business of his continuing as overseer, or not—whether you have got the cotton out—the quantity, and when you will have it at Markett. Present my affectionate regards to Sarah and my sweet little Rachel, with a kiss. all well here and join in kind salutations to you all, to which Genl Ward¹ unites with his to Emma and Thomas.

1 Aaron Ward, M. C. from New York 1831–1837 and 1841–1843.

affectionately yrs etc.

P.S. Present me kindly to Mr and Mrs. Wetherhall and children.